MONTANA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Chapter 357 19 87

Bill H _____ S 88 Original bill & history ✓C

H. Committee on Judiciary			S. Committee on Judiciary		
Hearing Date(s)	3/15	✓C	Hearing Date(s)	1/20	✓C
Appropriations	3/19	✓C			C
		C			C
		C			C
Date Out		C			

Did this bill originate in an interim committee? ___Yes ✓No

Committee _____ Report _____

1/10	INTRODUCED		
1/10	REFERRED TO BUSINESS & INDUSTRY		
1/10	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/13	HEARING		
1/14	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/14	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
1/17	2ND READING PASSED	50	0
1/20	3RD READING PASSED	48	1
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/04	REFERRED TO BUSINESS & LABOR		
3/04	HEARING		
3/04	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/10	2ND READING CONCURRED AS AMENDED	87	9
3/12	3RD READING CONCURRED	95	2
	RETURNED TO SENATE WITH AMENDMENTS		
3/19	2ND READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	50	0
3/20	3RD READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	47	2
3/24	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/25	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
3/25	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
3/29	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 264 EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/29/87		

SB 84 INTRODUCED BY THAYER, BACHINI
DISCRETION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN RESERVE OFFICERS' INSURANCE PLAN
BY REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

1/10	INTRODUCED		
1/10	REFERRED TO LABOR & EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS		
1/10	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/17	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/22	HEARING		
1/23	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
1/27	2ND READING PASSED	50	0
1/29	3RD READING PASSED	50	0
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/04	REFERRED TO BUSINESS & LABOR		
3/03	HEARING		
3/03	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/04	2ND READING CONCURRED	81	12
3/05	3RD READING CONCURRED	95	3
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
3/10	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/11	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
3/11	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
3/16	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 92 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/87		

SB 85 INTRODUCED BY GAGE
REVISING OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION LAWS
BY REQUEST OF DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & CONSERVATION

1/12	INTRODUCED		
1/12	REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES		
1/12	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		

1/16	HEARING		
1/17	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/19	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
1/19	STATEMENT OF INTENT ADOPTED		
1/22	REREFERRED TO RULES		
2/03	TAKEN FROM COMMITTEE		
2/09	2ND READING PASSED AS AMENDED	49	0
2/11	3RD READING PASSED	45	2
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/18	REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES		
3/09	HEARING		
3/10	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED AS AMENDED		
3/13	2ND READING CONCURRED	90	2
3/14	3RD READING CONCURRED	91	6
	RETURNED TO SENATE WITH AMENDMENTS		
3/19	2ND READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	50	0
3/20	3RD READING AMENDMENTS CONCURRED	49	0
3/24	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/25	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
3/25	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
3/29	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 265 EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/29/87		

SB 86 INTRODUCED BY GAGE
UNIFORM DORMANT MINERAL INTERESTS ACT

1/12	INTRODUCED		
1/12	REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES		
1/12	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/19	HEARING		
2/13	TABLED IN COMMITTEE		

SB 87 INTRODUCED BY GAGE
PROVIDES THAT LIGHT VEHICLE LICENSE FEE FOR VEHICLE 8 YEARS OLD OR OLDER REMAINS SAME AMOUNT EACH YEAR AND IS SET BY VEHICLE AGE AND WEIGHT

1/12	INTRODUCED		
1/12	REFERRED TO TAXATION		
1/12	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/16	HEARING		
1/16	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
3/06	TABLED IN COMMITTEE		

SB 88 INTRODUCED BY VAN VALKENBURG, COHEN, MERCER, ET AL.
EXTEND PRISON TERM FOR BURGLARY; CHANGE DEFINITION OF AGGRAVATED BURGLARY

1/12	INTRODUCED		
1/12	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
1/20	HEARING		
1/21	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
1/24	2ND READING PASSED	39	7
1/27	3RD READING PASSED	47	3
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/04	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
3/05	HEARING		
3/05	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/07	2ND READING CONCURRED	72	17
3/07	REREFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS		

3/19	HEARING		
3/25	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/27	2ND READING CONCURRED	88	8
3/28	3RD READING CONCURRED	85	7
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
4/01	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
4/02	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
4/02	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
4/07	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 357 EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/01/87		

SB 89 INTRODUCED BY KEATING, GAGE, HARDING, ET AL.
REDUCING THE RESOURCE INDEMNITY TRUST TAX RATE FROM 0.5 PERCENT TO 0.1 PERCENT

1/12	INTRODUCED		
1/12	REFERRED TO TAXATION		
1/13	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/15	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/16	HEARING		
1/30	ADVERSE COMMITTEE REPORT ADOPTED	40	9

SB 90 INTRODUCED BY HAMMOND, THAYER, MCCALLUM, ET AL.
PROVIDE TAX BENEFITS TO SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

1/13	INTRODUCED		
1/13	REFERRED TO TAXATION		
1/14	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/16	HEARING		
1/21	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
3/06	TABLED IN COMMITTEE		

SB 91 INTRODUCED BY HAMMOND, MARKS
EXCLUDE SECONDARY IMPACT PERSONS FROM HARD-ROCK MINING IMPACT PLANS AND TAX
BY REQUEST OF ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE

1/13	INTRODUCED		
1/13	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
2/23	HEARING		
2/23	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED AS AMENDED		
4/23	PLACED ON 2ND READING AT DISCRETION OF PRESIDENT	50	0
	DIED IN PROCESS		

SB 92 INTRODUCED BY STIMATZ, ECK, ABRAMS, ET AL.
AUTHORIZES COMPACT COMMISSION TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIAN TRIBES
BY REQUEST OF WATER POLICY COMMITTEE

1/13	INTRODUCED		
1/13	REFERRED TO NATURAL RESOURCES		
1/14	FISCAL NOTE REQUESTED		
1/23	FISCAL NOTE RECEIVED		
1/24	SPONSORS ADDED		
1/28	HEARING		
1/31	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
2/04	2ND READING PASSED	50	0
2/06	3RD READING PASSED	47	1

	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/11	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
3/19	HEARING		
3/19	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/27	2ND READING CONCURRED	83	0
3/28	3RD READING CONCURRED	88	4
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
4/01	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
4/02	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
4/02	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
4/07	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 358 EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/01/87		

SB 93 INTRODUCED BY WALKER, MEYER, DRISCOLL, ET AL.
EXTEND 1985 BENEFIT ADJUSTMENT UNDER MUNICIPAL POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
BY REQUEST OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD

1/13	INTRODUCED		
1/13	REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT		
1/15	REREFERRED TO STATE ADMINISTRATION		
1/20	HEARING		
1/20	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
1/22	2ND READING PASSED	47	0
1/24	3RD READING PASSED	46	0
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/04	REFERRED TO STATE ADMINISTRATION		
3/04	HEARING		
3/04	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/05	2ND READING CONCURRED	97	1
3/06	3RD READING CONCURRED	92	0
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
3/10	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/11	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		
3/11	TRANSMITTED TO GOVERNOR		
3/16	SIGNED BY GOVERNOR		
	CHAPTER NUMBER 93 EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/16/87		

SB 94 INTRODUCED BY LYBECK, BROWN, J., JACOBSON
REQUIRING ORAL INQUIRY INTO ORGAN DONATION WHEN ISSUING DRIVER'S LICENSE

1/13	INTRODUCED		
1/13	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
1/20	HEARING		
2/20	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL PASSED		
2/21	2ND READING PASSED	27	17
2/23	3RD READING PASSED	40	9
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE		
2/24	REFERRED TO JUDICIARY		
3/11	HEARING		
3/13	COMMITTEE REPORT--BILL CONCURRED		
3/16	2ND READING CONCURRED	90	4
3/17	3RD READING CONCURRED	91	5
	RETURNED TO SENATE		
3/20	SIGNED BY PRESIDENT		
3/21	SIGNED BY SPEAKER		

SENATE BILL NO. 88

INTRODUCED BY VAN VALKENBURG, COHEN, MERCER, B. BROWN

IN THE SENATE

JANUARY 12, 1987	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.
JANUARY 21, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL DO PASS. REPORT ADOPTED.
JANUARY 22, 1987	PRINTING REPORT.
JANUARY 24, 1987	SECOND READING, DO PASS.
JANUARY 26, 1987	ENGROSSING REPORT.
JANUARY 27, 1987	THIRD READING, PASSED. AYES, 47; NOES, 3.
	TRANSMITTED TO HOUSE.

IN THE HOUSE

FEBRUARY 4, 1987	INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.
MARCH 5, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 7, 1987	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.
	ON MOTION, TAKEN FROM THIRD READING AND REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.
MARCH 25, 1987	COMMITTEE RECOMMEND BILL BE CONCURRED IN. REPORT ADOPTED.
MARCH 27, 1987	SECOND READING, CONCURRED IN.

MARCH 28, 1987 THIRD READING, CONCURRED IN.
AYES, 85; NOES, 7.

RETURNED TO SENATE.

IN THE SENATE

MARCH 30, 1987 RECEIVED FROM HOUSE.

SENT TO ENROLLING.

INTRODUCED BY Senate BILL NO. 88
Van Valkenburg
Mercer Bob Brown

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT EXTENDING THE PRISON TERM FOR BURGLARY; CHANGING THE DEFINITION OF AGGRAVATED BURGLARY; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-6-204, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 45-6-204, MCA, is amended to read:

"45-6-204. Burglary. (1) A person commits the offense of burglary if he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in an occupied structure with the purpose to commit an offense therein.

(2) A person commits the offense of aggravated burglary if he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in an occupied structure with the purpose to commit ~~a--felony~~ an offense therein and:

(a) in effecting entry or in the course of committing the offense or in immediate flight thereafter, he or another participant in the offense is armed with explosives or a weapon; or

(b) in effecting entry or in the course of committing the offense or in immediate flight thereafter, he purposely, knowingly, or negligently inflicts or attempts to inflict bodily injury upon anyone.

(3) A person convicted of the offense of burglary shall be imprisoned in the state prison for any term not to exceed ~~10~~ 20 years or be fined an amount not to exceed $50,000, or both. A person convicted of the offense of aggravated burglary shall be imprisoned in the state prison for any term not to exceed 40 years or be fined an amount not to exceed $50,000, or both."

-End-

INTRODUCED BILL
SB 88

MONTANA STATE SENATE
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

January 20, 1987

The tenth meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 20, 1987 by Chairman Joe Mazurek in Room 325 of the Capitol Building.

ROLL CALL: All members were present.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 88: Senator Fred Van Valkenburg, Senate District #30, Missoula, introduced SB 88, which extends the maximum prison term for burglary from 10 to 20 years. He said the bill also changes the definition of "aggravated burglary". He stated the change makes the definition of aggravated burglary broader to include entering a building to commit any offense, and not just a felony. He explained there is a necessity to prove under aggravated burglary that the individual who entered the dwelling had the intent to commit a felony. He did not understand why the revised criminal code of 1973 inserted this provision. He said the real problem is when a person is hurt during a burglary. He said the possession of a weapon during a burglary could inflict injury to anyone associated with the burglary. He said the requirement to prove the intent of a felony is a very substantial requirement because it leads to speculation. He stated you can't show precise intent in many of these cases, so lawyers won't try for burglary convictions in cases. He felt the entry with a weapon should cause the enhanced punishment, not the intent of committing a felony. He explained that the criminal code has a range of one year to death for offenses. He said felony theft and writing a bad check have a maximum sentencing of 10 years. He pointed out forgery is worth a maximum of 20 years in prison. He believed aggravated burglary should have the equal sentencing of forgery or felony theft because he believed it is as severe a crime as forgery or a simply theft. He said the prison population would have minimal change with this bill. He stated prior to 1973, in Montana the maximum punishment for burglary was 15 years; these were burglaries committed at night (1st degree). He stated 2nd degree burglary, committed in the daytime, had a maximum punishment of five years. He explained under the Federal law burglary is treated as a second degree felony or a "class B" felony which has 10 to 15 years maximum sentencing. He said with his experience he would say a burglar is as close as you can get to a "career criminal", because they know what burglary is risky in getting caught doing and what isn't. He felt this should deter the career criminals from doing aggravated burglary.

PROPONENTS: Marc Racicot, County Attorney's Association, supported the bill because burglars are the pointmen of criminal rings. He said there

is a risk to the victim and the burglar during the crime and, so you need to eliminate the felony requirement. He said if a burglar steals only $250 in a house, which is not a felony amount, one can't charge aggravated burglary even if there is an injury or weapon involved.

OPPONENTS: None

TECHNICAL WITNESS: Kurt Chisholm, Department of Institutions, gave the committee an impact sheet on SB 88 (see Exhibit 1).

DISCUSSION ON SB 88: Senator Pinsoneault inquired why the bill said criminal offense or illegal act. Senator Van Valkenburg responded that in the criminal code it defines offense as a criminal act.

Senator Blaylock asked if a burglar was sentenced to the full 20 years and was a model prisoner, what would be the minimum of the 20 years he would serve. Kurt Chisholm thought it would be a 5th of the original time.

Senator Crippen inquired wouldn't the Blaylock offender also be subjected to an additional penalty if he had a weapon. Senator Van Valkenburg replied that there is a separate sentence enhancing statute in the Codes that allows the additional sentence of a minimum of two years and a maximum of 10 years for the use of a weapon in a crime. Senator Crippen asked if some kids were stealing a bike from a garage and the owner comes out and trips over the bike and is injured, wouldn't that fall right in the middle of this bill. Senator Van Valkenburg said as long as the garage is attached it is a potential aggravated burglary. Senator Crippen said the bill is making such a change when taking felony out and putting in offense. He asked what the compelling reason was to change it to offense. He commented the reason an owner may fall down and get hurt is not because whoever broke into his garage says "I give up"; it is because they engaged in flight; engaged in resistance; and it is the additional act that poses a threat to the victim of the offense, the criminal or anyone who intervened. He said every situation will be treated differently by a judge. Senator Crippen stated the word felony has been there a long time and it should remain there.

Senator Beck questioned if this bill will really deter aggravated burglary. Senator Van Valkenburg felt it would deter some of the aggravated burglary.

Senator Van Valkenburg closed.

CONSIDERATION OF SB 94: Senator Ray Lybeck, Senate District #4 of Kalispell/ Columbia Falls, stated Senator Conover had a bill last session that would place a printout on the back of your driver's license to show your were a organ donor, but his bill doesn't make the clerk, who accepts the

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
50TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 5, 1987

The meeting of the Judiciary Committee was called to order by Chairman Earl Lory on March 5, 1987, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 312-D of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL: All members were present with the exception of Rep. Hannah and Rep. Brown who were absent.

SENATE BILL NO. 88: Senator Van Valkenburg, District No. 30, stated this was a straight forward bill that did two things. It changed the definition of aggravated burglary and extends the maximum prison term for the commission of the offense of burglary. The definition of aggravated burglary as it currently exists in the law, requires not only that the individual committed the offense of burglary but also the intent of the individual in breaking into a home or business was to commit a felony within. He must also have a weapon in his possession or injure someone in the course of the entry or flight from the occupied structure. He explained the County Attorney's Association prepared the bill in response to some specific requests from the Flathead area. The requirement of having to prove the intent to commit a felony upon entry was a requirement that the law should not have. The real problem associated with an aggravated burglary was the fact that the individual had a weapon or hurt someone in the course of committing the offense and not what their intent was in terms of going into a residence. He also pointed out the maximum term of burglary was increased in the bill. The term was amended from 10 to 20 years. A person convicted of the offense of aggravated burglary shall be imprisoned in the state prison for any term not to exceed 40 years or be fined an amount not to exceed $50,000.00, or both.

PROPONENTS: Mark Roscoe, representing the Attorney General's Office and the County Attorney's Association, stated they were in support of the bill primarily because their experience left them to conclude that actually the burglars are the point men in the entire cycle that takes place in stolen property. He pointed out they also supported the bill because it should not make any difference if a person intended to commit a misdemeanor theft or felony theft when they break into someone's home and do harm with a weapon.

There were no further proponents and no opponents.

Senator Van Valkenburg closed the hearing by saying the prison population may have a minimal impact but the Department of Institutions estimated there would not be a serious problem. He felt the bill would provide a more consistent and fair application of the criminal laws that apply to burglary and that they would actually have a sentence in line with the gravity of that criminal activity.

SENATE BILL NO. 48: Senator Brown, District No. 2, sponsor, stated he was carrying the bill by the request of the Joint Interim Subcommittee on liability issues. The bill provides for the periodic payment of future damages in an action for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death if the amount of future damages awarded equaled or exceeded $50,000.00 and if periodic payment was in the best interest of the claimant. The justification for the bill is basically that the lump sum awards tend to be pretty costly especially if they were large lump sum awards. They were expensive for the insurer because it was cheaper to pay out in installments. The bill was designed to improve the chances for self insurers to remain viable and solvent since they would not have to take the hits of those lump sum awards. He pointed out there was also some tax advantages to the person awarded the damages and the advantage of a reliable source of income the person would receive over a period of time. Structured payments were not anything new. What was new in the bill was that the judge could order periodic payments at the request of either party in the law suit if he deemed them in the best interest of the claimant. Section 3, allowed for flexibility that was not available in the existing law. Section 6, limited the recipient of payments from assigning or committing installments to secure payment of alimony, maintenance, or child support, for the costs of products, services or accommodations provided by the assignee for medical or health care or attorney fees in litigation expenses.

PROPONENTS: Gerald J. Neely, representing the Montana Medical Association, stated the bill's major provisions were for periodic payment of future damages by annuity, and the payments were payable until the death of the injured party, even if beyond the anticipated life expectancy. If an annuity was not involved, the injured party when the normal life expectancy was exceeded, may request additional payments for added future economic damages arising out of the injury. He submitted written testimony. (Exhibit A). He stated the Montana Liability Coalition also supported the measure.

Don Houen, Attorney, representing the Montana Municipal Insurance Authority which is the insurance authority created by the various leagues of cities and towns in Montana,

$150,000. He showed the committee a tape describing the need for the new facility. The tape indicated that most of the buildings were 100 years old or older and the machinery is too large to put inside.

PROPONENTS:

Rep. Jenkins spoke in support of the bill by saying the shop is too small to house any of the new, larger equipment. Mr. Arnold Peterson also stated that the buildings were constructed in early 1937 and they were too small for large new machinery as well as being dangerous.

Sen. Gregg Jergeson from Sen. District #8, supported the bill saying it would establish a shop to repair equipment and also keep equipment stored in to keep it out of the weather.

Mr. Jim Welch stated there is a large personal liability issue also involved as these buildings do have safety problems.

Rep. Ray Peck also supported the bill saying that the buildings are totally inadequate for the type of work these people do.

Rep. Bardanouve supported the bill because these buildings are very obsolete and need replaced.

(91:B:001) Rep. Bachini closed on the bill by saying this building is approximately 4,000 square feet in size, 50 x 80 foot shop and storage. The cost would be $150,000.

The hearing was closed on the bill.

(91:B:2.09) SB 88: Sen. Fred Van Valkenburg of SD #30 spoke in regard to SB 88 which is an act extending the prison term for burglary, and changing the definition of aggravated burglary, and to increase the penalty from 10 years to 20 years. He pointed out that essentially the bill would change the law to read if a person commits a burglary with a weapon or does physical harm while attempting a burglary it would be treated as aggravated burglary and the maximum penalty would be 20 years.

Mr. Carroll South expressed concern with the 20 year term as this could increase the prison population up at least 8 prisoners in an already over-crowded facility. He stated that extending that term is unnecessary.

Roger Lauen, private consultant stated in 1985 the average length of time people were sent to prison for was ten years.

If the time is extended the judges will again give them close to the maximum penalty as they are doing now.

The hearing was closed on the bill.

HB 866: Rep. Bradley stated that HB 866 would increase by $5, the fee for issuing a marriage license or filing a declaration of marriage. There were two amendments, one on page 2 line 13 changing the marriage license fee from $30 to $35; and the second is on page three which shows the amount of $19 going to displaced homemakers rather than $14.

PROPONENTS:

(91:B:30.08) Mr. Boyce Fowler of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services spoke in favor of the bill. He presented written testimony to the committee (Exhibit 5). An increase in the fee will help to stabilize the base and allow more of these programs to remain stable for these local programs.

Ms. Caryl Wickes Borchers, Montana Coalition Against Domestic Violence Today, said that they strongly support the bill as it assists these domestic violence cases. They continue to work toward these ends. She also presented written testimony (Exhibit 6) from various people.

Lanore Farrell on staff at the Helena Friendship Center also supported the bill saying that these funds help nearly 40 victims per month on average, which does not include the children.

(91:B:39.34) Ann Clark of the Women's Place in Missoula stated that the Women's Place serves over 2,000 women in a year. They provide a necessary service and they are really low on funds. She urged support of the bill.

Janet L. Serrin who is also a volunteer at Women's Place in Missoula stated that their budget is extremely low.

(92:A:0.001) Sandy Chaney of the Women's Lobbyist Fund stated that the Women's Lobbyist Fund wished to go on record in support of the bill.

The hearing was closed on the bill.

HB 187: Rep. Rex Manuel stated he was presenting the bill to appropriate $320,000 to the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station to Operate a Spring Wheat Breeding and Biotechnology Program in Montana. This is not a production bill. It is a marketing bill for quality grain.